

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 31, 1999 LB 585

next, so you may continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you and, Madam President, rather than interrogate Senator Bromm at this point, I'm going to make some observations. Whenever this Legislature is required, for whatever reason, to follow certain language fabricated someplace else, it usually does not fit the laws of Nebraska, nor does it meet the standards that I would like to see us adhere to when we enact legislation. On the tobacco recovery bill, the tobacco money, because a billion something dollars were at stake I just swallowed my objections that I had to certain grammatical constructions that I didn't like. But in this bill we're talking about substantive rights of people. I don't drink. Senator Redfield, based on that statement that some women make, lips that touch alcohol shall never touch mine, I could kiss every woman who ever was, is, or will be. I have never tasted of alcohol in my life, never, so I'm not speaking as one who is afflicted and...by and under the control of that demon rum or John Barleycorn. I'm looking at people who may be so afflicted but they do not cease to be people with rights, in my opinion. As a lawmaker, I have to consider what the ramifications are of laws that we put on the books, so when we're going to talk about taking people's property and don't know where we're going to put it, say we're going to let the court do whatever it thinks is right without giving any guidelines, I think that's too loose. Another provision talks about a period of time ranging from five days to one year for a certain purpose, and the court has all kind of leeway to do whatever it chooses within that period of time and no guideline legislatively whatsoever. So if a judge is afflicted by a spot of mustard or undigested beef, as was the case with Scrooge when he was having all those nightmares, the judge might say a year. Maybe the judge, the night before, had his Viagra and it worked and his wife was able to afford some contraceptives so there occurred that most glorious and sacred act and the judge came to work feeling very chipper and he imposes five days. And the way this bill is drafted, judges can make those kind of rulings on whim and they are not challengeable based on anything in this bill. I'm going to take those things one at a time, but I'm just kind of giving an overview now. When you look at legislation and regulations that come from the federal government, you must remember that there are politicians running for those offices that they hold, either